

GRIZZLY

www.calguard.ca.gov/publicaffairs

2008

July

Vol. 3 No.7



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Major General William H. Wade II



Often referred to as “our national treasure”, the Declaration of Independence expresses the convictions and political philosophy of the world’s premiere democracy. Arguably, when you think of the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States, the first name that usually comes to mind is Thomas Jefferson. He is generally credited with the Declaration’s opening preamble, as well as a framer of the Constitution’s Bill of Rights. How well we all know the words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

What many people do not know, is these thoughts were not Jefferson’s. They were, in fact, the thoughts of his fellow Virginia statesman, George Mason. Mason was the author of Virginia’s Declaration of Rights, adopted by the Virginia Constitutional Convention June 12,

1776 – clearly 22 days before the Declaration of Independence. The first two sections of Mason’s Declaration begin with, “... all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, ... and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety”. And, “That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants and at all time amenable to them.”

Mason was set on the inclusion of specific rights and protections in the Declaration and insisted that it contain such provisions. As can be seen by comparing the respective wording, Jefferson drew heavily upon Mason’s writings for the opening paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence. Had Mason’s writings and feelings not been widely known, Jefferson could well have been accused of plagiarism; however, Mason most likely willingly acquiesced, allowing his thoughts to be used, in the name of freedom for all men. Mason also

pressed for the addition of explicitly stated rights as part of the Constitution, and therefore, did not sign it because it lacked such a statement. His efforts, none the less, succeeded in convincing the Federalists to modify the Constitution and add the Bill of Rights.

When you compare Mason’s Virginia Declaration of Rights to the Constitution’s Bill of Rights, the similarities are obvious and overwhelming: the first amendment regarding religion is the same as Virginia’s section 16, the second amendment referring to a well regulated militia is similar to Virginia’s section 13, and the fourth amendment dealing with protection against unreasonable searches and seizures is comparable to Virginia’s section 10. In addition, the fifth amendment pertaining to double-jeopardy, bearing witness against ones’ self, the right to be confronted by your accuser, and the right to due process is reflected in section 8 of Virginia’s declaration, and section 11 controversies respecting property is similar to the seventh amendment. And, the eighth amendment regarding excessive bail and unusual punishments is nearly identical.

Mason’s opposition, before and during the Federal Convention, seriously strained his long friendship with George Washington – his neighbor – and is most likely a major reason why he is the least known of the founding fathers. He was an avid anti-federalist, believed in a weak central government (divided into three parts – with little power), where most of the power was vested in the individual states: thoughts that endure to this day.

On December 15, 1791, the United States Bill of Rights – based principally on Mason’s wording in the Virginia Declaration of Rights – was ratified as the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Two hundred and seventeen years later, these rights remain the envy and dream of every freedom-loving person around the world. Happy 232nd birthday, AMERICA!



Command Sergeant Major William Clark Jr.

As I look back to our country’s independence and the people that made it happen, I am struck by the similarities and differences that are faced by our troops today. Our Revolutionary forefathers dropped everything that they were doing to pick up a rifle and fight the world’s most powerful army, the British. Farmers put down their plows; merchants left their businesses, all to fight for freedom and democracy. These Citizen-Soldiers fought for the right for self government and equality for all. They fought alone for the majority of the seven year Revolutionary War. It took a number of years before we gained much needed assistance from an allied nation, France.

Today we are that allied nation, stepping up to support a new form of government in another part of the world. In our Country’s beginning we fought against a known enemy. Things have become much more complicated now, and the tyranny we fight against wears a different face. The face is of insurgents and terrorists whose goals are power and chaos. Their main weapon is terror.

Like our forefathers, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines come from all walks of life; and just like in the past, many are Reservists or Guardsmen. We drop what we are doing: school, businesses, and ca-

reers, in order to assist another country in its pursuit of democracy. We put our lives on the line for the ideal of a free and democratic society just like our Founding Fathers did. We make the necessary sacrifices to support their efforts to gain the chance to experience that same freedom we enjoy in the United States: freedom from terror, freedom from oppression, and the opportunity to live a life of their own choosing. The price is high, as it has always been. It frequently comes down to those few who are willing to make the sacrifice for others so that they may experience freedom and security. That is us and our allies.

Some may complain because we don’t think they get what it means to be free, or that they appreciate our efforts. We on the other hand have no understanding of what life is like without freedom thanks to the sacrifices of those that have gone before. That is changing as we spend more time in lands that have not been as fortunate as us. Our understanding is growing. This Independence Day let us take a moment to remember the history of our road to independence, and how we have shared that heritage in our efforts to make a difference in a new democratic state: Iraq.

Grizzly

The Official Newsletter of the
California National Guard

Vol 3. No.7

July 2008

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FROM THE EDITOR

Once again the California National Guard has been called to action in support of civil authorities. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger called the CNG to duty on June 22, 2008 to assist Cal FIRE in fighting California wild fires. As of June 25, 2008 the CNG has provided 7 helicopters, including a firehawk for aerial fire suppression and two fixed wing aircraft for aerial reconnaissance and fire mapping. Additionally, an advanced mobile communications and data platform (IC4U) to assist in command and control in remote areas has been launched. The August Grizzly edition will feature photographs of our Soldiers and Airmen during this critical time.

This month we welcome home the 1-160th Infantry Battalion and the 349th Quartermaster Company from a one year tour in Iraq.

SUBMISSIONS

Articles:

- ★ 250 – 300 words for half a page, 600-800 words for full page article.
- ★ Include first and last names, and *verify spelling*
- ★ If there is a Public Affairs officer assigned to your unit ensure he/she reviews it.

Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible, minimum 300 dpi
- ★ Credits (who took photograph)
- ★ Cutline (what action is taking place in the photograph and identify individuals in photograph)

Email story submissions by the
15th of every month to:
mirtha.villarreal@us.army.mil

COVER PHOTO TECH. SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

Where We Are

THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD AS OF JULY 2008



BUILDING BETTER BONDS ROPES COURSE BINDS SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

BY 1ST LT. THERESA M. CHRYSTAL



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

Airmen from the California Air National Guard CERFP team participated in a high ropes team-building exercise with their Army counterparts while training at Camp San Luis Obispo in April and May. Members were required to scale the towering obstacle course by merely hanging from a harness attached to a piece of rope stretched from one utility pole to another.

The high ropes course was incorporated into this year's annual training plan for CERFP's search and extraction element in order to build teamwork and unity between the Army and Air components. Additionally, the intent was to build individual confidence for members who might find themselves performing a rescue mission in an elevated environment.

"During an emergency, these Soldiers and Airmen must function together as a team," said First Lieutenant Adam Rix, the commander of the 132nd Multirole Bridge Company and who is also

in charge of the CERFP's search and extraction element.

"Each squad of Soldiers includes at least one Air Force medic to triage victims and advise on the safest way to extricate them without causing further injury," Rix said. "Whether the team is conducting a high angle rescue, entering a confined space or breaching reinforced concrete, communication, trust, and unity of effort are critical for mission success and the safety of both victims and responders."

The Soldiers seemed to be in their natural element as evidenced by their monkey-like finesse at maneuvering up and around the poles and across the lines with great ease. The training was not taken lightly as Airmen were given thorough safety briefings and hands-on practice on the ground prior to their high wire acts.

Airmen who participated in the ropes course also felt the training was highly beneficial to the team. "We've built a really good rapport

with the Army and continue to do so with exercises like these," said Master Sgt. Nathan Krebbs, the search and extraction noncommissioned officer in charge.

Krebbs, who is also the first sergeant for the medical group at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, stated "We depend on the Army, and we've become pretty integrated in the whole process of search and extraction with them."

The teambuilding event was deemed a success from both sides. As the troops performed their duties throughout the rest of the scenarios, they worked seamlessly together to safely evacuate and treat patients pulled from the rubble.

"It is our job to find the victims and remove them from harm's way," Rix said. "But once we've found them, we must ensure they are properly triaged and safely extricated. For that, we lean heavily on the medical knowledge and expertise of our Air Force counterparts."

High in the sky is where Airmen usually like to soar as they provide air support to Soldiers on the ground below; however, during one recent exercise, they found themselves reaching out to their Army brethren for guidance and support in the skies right next to them.





A BIG NAME, DEMANDS BIG RESPONSIBILITY

BY 1ST LT. THERESA M. CHRYSTAL

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High-Yield Explosives Enhanced Response Force Package (C-ERFP – pronounced “surf-pea”) is quite a mouthful. And along with that long, impressive title comes a huge amount of responsibility. The team plays a large role in keeping the citizens of California and the entire country safe.

More than 200 members of the California Army and Air National Guard joined forces with local firefighters and other first responders at Camp San Luis Obispo (Camp SLO) for their bi-annual training.

The joint training provided an excellent opportunity for the troops to train alongside their civilian counterparts under very realistic scenarios. “It is the opportunity to practice our skills and provide support to emergency first responders that makes this type of exercise so unique and valuable,” said Lt. Col. Thor Iljana, commander for the CNG C-ERFP and the 579th Engineer Brigade.

The C-ERFP is a rapid response team responsible for quick reaction to not only a weapons of mass destruction or terrorist attack, but also to any potentially hazardous chemical incident. The team has a three-tier responsibility for supporting local responders with search and extraction, decontamination and medical triage for victims involved in these type of large-scale emergencies. The members are required to have their equipment fully loaded and prepared to deploy within six hours of notification and usually follow behind National Guard Civil Support Teams and Quick Reaction Forces.

The California team is comprised of approximately 200 Soldiers and Airmen from National Guard units



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

throughout the state. The 579th ENG BDE headquartered out of Santa Rosa, with members also in Petaluma, provide command and control of the situation along with search and extraction of exposed victims.

A decontamination element provided by the 132nd Engineering Company from Mount Shasta is responsible for processing patients from a chemically “dirty” environment into a “clean” area to obtain medical attention.

Nearly 50 medical personnel from four Air Guard wings around the

state include Airmen from the 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Federal Air Field, the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing at March Air Reserve Base, the 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands, with the majority coming from the 144th Fighter Wing at the Fresno Air National Guard Base.

According to Lt. Col. Rob Swertfager, the C-ERFP Medical Operations Officer, the training was a huge success. “The exercise was beneficial on many levels. Not only did we get the opportunity to practice our specific medical function within CERFP, but we were able

to fully integrate with our Army Guard counterparts to function as a complete team,” said Swertfager. “This type of training helps to identify inefficiencies and shortfalls that you can’t observe when practicing on a smaller scale.”

The training at Camp SLO provided a realistically urban environment for the team to practice search, rescue and evacuation techniques from a simulated train derailment resulting in a hazardous chemical spill. Volunteer “victims” were moulaged with lifelike wounds and injuries that CERFP team members might encounter in an actual incident.

After the scene is secured, search and rescue teams bring victims to a treatment area for decontamination and processing through a basic assembly line process. Ambulatory patients who are able to walk are led through a shower tent where contaminants are scrubbed and rinsed off, while non-ambulatory ones are brought in on stretchers and rolled down conveyers. All victims are then screened for contamination before being allowed to proceed on to medical treatment. Once stabilized or treated, the victims are then released from the scene and if necessary, transported by ambulance or helicopter to local hospitals or emergency care facilities.

The California C-ERFP is responsible for Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX. From its offices in Oakland, FEMA’s Region IX works in partnership with the emergency management agencies of Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada, as well as the territories of American Samoa and Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

49TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

BY CAPT. JONATHAN MASAKI SHIROMA

It was a bitter sweet moment at the Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Lawson Memorial Armory in Fairfield on June 6, 2008 as Brig. Gen. Rodney L. Barham officially relinquished the command of the 49th Military Police Brigade to Col. Donald J. Currier.

For Brig. Gen. Barham, this marked the official end of his command of the brigade he took to war in September, 2005, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"As you know, the 49th was reactivated in May, 2005 and I have had the honor of serving as the commander since then," said Barham. "I am proud of every Soldier that deployed with the brigade. We accomplished a lot and can look back and be proud that we played a part in the training of the Iraqi police force who continues to improve every day."



Brigadier General Louis J. Antonetti passes the guidon to incoming 49th MP Brigade Commander, Col. Donald J. Currier.

"At the same time, today is the last day of my command," added Barham, "I will miss working with all of you and while it is hard to say good-bye, I know I am leaving you in good hands under the command of Col. Currier."

Colonel Currier has served as the deputy commander of the brigade since its reactivation in 2005. Now, as he takes the lead as the brigade commander, he says he is looking forward to his new position.

"Aside from the day I married my wife, Teri, this is the second happiest day in my life," said the Col. "I am looking forward to this command and to the Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade, I will do my best to be there for you and provide the leadership needed for the 49th to do its state and federal mission."

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ULISES VILLALBA

CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

ORGANIZES AND HOSTS CIVIL SUPPORT TASK LIST WORKSHOP IN SACRAMENTO

BY CAPT. JONATHAN MASAKI SHIROMA



SPHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE

Members of the 9th Civil Support Team conduct a map reconnaissance before taking part in a joint exercise.

More than 100 representatives from a number of first responder organizations gathered in Sacramento in early June to discuss and plan their readiness in the event of a man-made or natural disaster in California.

The Civil Support Task List (CSTL) workshop was led by the California National Guard and took place at the Regional Anti-Terrorism Training Center at McClellan Park. The role of the CNG during the exercise was to define how the

military can support emergency management agencies in a crisis situation with first-rate manpower and technology.

"We are really the first line of defense for not only homeland defense but for support to civil authorities," said Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the Adjutant General of the California National Guard. "We have a legacy of responding to state missions as well as federal missions as we did in Hurricane Katrina, as we did last year in California for Operation Fall Blaze."

Representatives from over twenty five states as well as from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Northern Command, the National Guard Bureau and the Office of the Secretary of Defense were in attendance at the CSTL workshop to begin a process to define and discuss respective capabilities that will meet the emergency response requirements for both the military and civilian agencies.

"We want to not only share what we learned with everybody else but also learn from the other members here so that we can have a

consolidated civil support task list that we can all work off so when the next big one happens, everyone knows exactly how we are going to respond and whose going to provide what," said the Adjutant General.

"We're protecting the homeland, we're protecting ourselves, our families and our children, said Joe Angello, Department of Defense Deputy Assistant Under-Secretary for Personnel and Readiness. "That's why we're here to ensure we provide that support."

The workshop was the first of its kind to bring representatives from throughout the state together to plan for a joint response in the event of local catastrophic disaster. Agencies participating in the workshop will take the lessons learned and apply them to their regular training exercises.

"This project is needed to improve the National Guard, the Department of Defense, civilian responders and the entire emergency management community to respond in a coordinated and synergistic way during times of emergencies," said Maj. Gen. Wade.

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. – More than 650 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry celebrated their return from a 12-month combat tour in Iraq.

During their deployment, the Soldiers conducted more than 900 convoy escort missions, during which they provided security for approximately 50 civilian and military vehicles from Camp Virginia, Kuwait into all areas of Iraq as far north as Mosul and as far west as Al Asad. The 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry consists of five companies of Soldiers from throughout California.

Several Soldiers in the 160th were awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, or the Army Achievement Medal for bravery and achievement while serving in Iraq.

The 1-160th Infantry has a rich history of answering the call to duty for the state and our nation including the Watts riot in the 1960s, the Rodney King riots in the early 1990s, the 1994 6.8 earthquake in southern California, and have served in southwest Asia. More than 100 of these Soldiers had previously deployed in support of OIF and served their second tour in Iraq



PHOTO BY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (SMR) ROBERT KARLESKINT AND 2ND LT. (SMR) HEATHER HAGAN

1-160TH INFANTRY HOMECOMING



► Feature

J1 SUPPORT PROGRAMS

MENTAL HEALTH AND MUCH MORE

BY COLONEL LAWRENCE D. COOPER, DIRECTOR OF J1

Editor's Note:

J1 is the Director of Manpower and personnel and is responsible to provide selected personnel services to Army, Air, and Civilian personnel of the California National Guard.

Colonel Lawrence Cooper has been recently reassigned as Chief of Staff of the Balkans 11 (Task Force Falcon) rotation. Col. David Nickels is the new J1.

You may have noticed a title change for this column tab from "Mental Health" to "J1 Support Programs." In past columns, I have encouraged our Mental Health Director to incorporate the many support programs that the J1 division has developed in response to the growing Mental Health and Behavioral Health needs of Guard members returning from deployments, transitioning to civilian / retired status, or experiencing acute needs that cannot be met through other programs. But frankly, J1 provides "Mental Health programs and much more" to support California Guard members throughout the State.

As Director of J1, I am expanding the scope of this column. In future columns, every program you and your Family might need to access will be fully introduced and presented. For today's column, a brief, general description of the variety of J1 Support programs and contact information follows. Know that we realize you can't put "mission first" if you have an unmet support need. Our programs are designed to support your efforts to deploy in confidence and return safely to Family, friends, and civilian employment. Toward that end, I'd like to familiarize you with some of the J1 programs you can access for various assistance.



Clearly, our California National Guard Leadership prioritizes all facets of Service member support. We have expanded our ability to assist CNG Soldiers and Airmen as we have become an operational force. We truly put Warrior Care as Job One!

Operation Ready Families Program

Assists units as it supports the Families of members of the CNG during peacetime, training, and deployment.

Some of its Family Support/Assistance activities:

- Manage state-wide Family Assistance Network
- Deployment /Redeployment Briefings for Families and Troops
- Training/Assistance for Unit Leadership Teams, Rear Detachments
- Coordinate Community Benevolence Activities for Families
- Provide SRP support, Facilitate Marriage Enrichment Seminars, and Operation "We Care" meetings
- Family Readiness Group Training

Volunteer Specific Training

- Child and Youth Programs
- Command/Chain of Concern Issues, Volunteer Opportunities

Contact: (800) 449-9662 or (916) 361-4955

Website: www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

Provides direct assistance to CNG Service members during Inactive Duty Training, mobilization, and demobilization processing to ensure Guard and Reserve members can perform military duties while maintaining the support of their civilian employers.

This J1 program:

- Facilitates employer awareness and participation in the ESGR network
- Manages ESGR Ombudsman program and informal mediation services for employers and members of the National Guard and Reserve
- Coordinates employer awards and Bosslift events
- Manages oversight of CNG Civilian Employment Information (CEI) Statistics

Contact: (916) 854-3106

email: Jerrold.Jurin1@us.army.mil

website: <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/esgr>

Transition Assistance Advisor

Liaison between JFHQ, Department of Veterans Affairs, County Veterans Services Officers (CVSO), Vets Centers, and other sources. Conduit for CNG Service members and veterans for assistance and benefits. Provides assistance to injured CalGuard members with TRICARE benefits. Publishes Veterans Information Webpage on CalGuard website.

Contact number: (916) 854-3315.

email: J1@ca.ngb.army.mil

website: www.calguard.ca.gov/J1/veteransprogram

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPRP)

Implements the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Procedures for CNG including: program awareness, training and education, treatment and support of victims, and reporting accountability

Contact: CNG Sexual Response Coordinator (SARC) (916) 869-0787

website: www.calguard.ca.gov/j1/saprp

Joint Substance Abuse Program (JSAP)

Our mission is to provide prevention training, outreach to military Families, and treatment resources to military members in an effort to increase military discipline, individual performance, and combat readiness.

The program for CNG includes:

training, testing, assistance, compliance, quality assurance, and prevention of substance abuse.

Contact: (916) 366-4732

Email: stephanie.weaver@us.army.mil

Website: <https://portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/sites/G1/ddr/default.aspx>

Mental Health Programs

The CNG Mental Health Task Force maintains full-time operations at JFHQ in Sacramento and part-time operations at both Los Alamitos Joint Force Training Base and Fort Irwin. Additionally, the CNG Mental Health Task Force is continually building a team of CNG and State Military Reserve mental health personnel serving as Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists on a part-time basis.

Mental Health programs include:

- Combat Stress
- Consultations/Evaluations
- Embedded Mental Health Program
- Mental Health Task Force
- Suicide Prevention & Response Team
- CNG Counseling/Intervention

Contact: CNG Mental Health Services (916) 854-3019

Email: mental.healthca@ng.army.mil

Suicide Prevention Program

The California National Guard recently received a mandate from National Guard Bureau to initiate, develop, and field a Suicide Prevention Program. The program will focus on delivering suicide prevention education and tools to commanders and Soldiers throughout the state; to track suicide related statistics and identify trends, and then report this information to the NGB Suicide Prevention Program Manager. Future editions will focus on this subject and offer additional preventive resources.

Contact: CNG MHTF – Suicide Prevention Program Manager (916) 854-3019

Email: mental.healthca@ng.army.mil

Website: www.calguard.ca.gov/mhtf

Chaplain Services

The California National Guard Chaplaincy provides spiritual leadership and ministry that enriches the lives of California's Armed Forces, Families, and local and global communities in support of the free exercise of religion in peace, disaster, and war.

Contact: Duty number: (916) 854-3398

24 hour Chaplain Staff Duty Pager number (888) 939-1754.

Website: <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/chaplain/>



349TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY SOLDIERS

RETURN TO CALIFORNIA AFTER YEAR-LONG IRAQ DEPLOYMENT



CALIFORNIA – More than 100 Soldiers from the California National Guard's (CNG) 349th Quartermaster (QM) Company returned to California after a 12-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Soldiers arrived at the San Jose International Airport where they were greeted by fellow Soldiers and loved-ones. After their arrival, the unit headed to Camp San Luis Obispo (SLO), where they held a welcome-home ceremony.

During their deployment, the 349th QM Co. provided highly effective leadership and supervision to more than 200 military personnel from three different military units, as well as more than 150 Kellogg, Brown, and Root contractors. Upon their arrival to Iraq, the 349th was augmented with a detachment from the 105th QM Co., from

the Puerto Rico National Guard, as well as an active duty detachment from the 119th Transportation Company, from Fort Story, Va.

Equally impressive was the unit's direct influence on operations 'outside the wire.' The unit provided safe convoy escort for more than 20,000 vehicles, 34,000 personnel, and covered nearly 4,000 miles while conducting more than 400 missions. The unit also kept coalition aircraft on station by providing a highly responsive, hot aircraft refuel point in operation from the moment they arrived until their mission ended. Their efforts resulted in direct support of more than 700 coalition aircraft, and the management of over 179,000 gallons of fuel.

PHOTOS BY DAVID MIDDLECAMP/COURTESY SAN LUIS OBISPO TRIBUNE





Sgt. 1st Class James Harris, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Johnson and Staff Sgt. Fred Meadows during a Memorial Day event at Mount Vernon Memorial Park, Sacramento, Calif.



California National Guard Soldiers gear up, as part of the exercises conducted during Operation Vigilant Guard 2008, after getting confirmation a chemical was found on the site of an earthquake.



Members of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing's Security Forces Squadron and the 163 Reconnaissance Wing participate in a five-mile relay during an annual Torch Run event supporting the Special Olympics.

Col. Jane Anderholt, Joint Forces Training Base Deputy Commander seen pinning the Army Commendation Medal on Staff Sgt. Michael Sindar for his exceptionally meritorious service in support of the Global War on Terrorism training more 50-thousand Soldiers over a three years at JFTB.



CONTRIBUTORS | SGT 1ST CLASS STEPHEN PAYER | S



Maj. Thomas P. Graham, Col. Diane L. Bodner and Lt. Col. Kimerli J. Rempp at the change of the Change of Command Ceremony for the Grizzly Battalion in which Lt. Col. Rempp relinquished command to Maj. Graham.



Lt. Col. Timothy O'Reilly and his family celebrate his new post as Commander of the Installation Support Unit at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos.



Guest Speaker, Capt. Danjel Bout at the 82nd Annual Sacramento Host Breakfast in which members of all Armed Forces were honored.

Capt. Aaron Roggow assists Officer Candidate William Hull during the Officer Candidate School Combat Water Survival Test.

GLANCE

STAFF SGT. ULISES VILLALBA | TECH SGT. DAVID J. LOEFFLER | CAPT. AL BOSCO | 2ND LT. (SMR) HEATHER HAGAN | MASTER SGT STANLEY THOMPSON



Command Sgt. Major Kevin Garrett and members of Accession Task Force present the colors during a change of command ceremony.



Lt. Col. Gregory Debernard presents Col. Sylvia Crockett with a Samurai Warrior sword in appreciation of her leadership.



Senior Master Sgt. Ron Egan, 163rd Maintenance Group Field Training Detachment superintendent, discusses the MQ-1 Predator's Rotax engine with Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Leah Weis during a tour of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing.

OPERATION READY FAMILIES PROGRAM

Purpose: To assist commanders as they support the families and loved ones of the soldiers/airmen during times of peace, training, and deployment.

Vision: A fully functioning military chain of command working with a fully functioning Community of Concern to enhance the readiness and wellness of the California National Guard.

The Program provides assistance to Family Readiness Groups (FRG) as they establish or enhance their operations, trains FRG volunteers, builds partnerships to benefit our Child and Youth, and through a network of Family Assistance Specialists, provides 24/7 help to not only families of the California National Guard but to families from all the other services. We work with units to provide extensive Predeployment and Postdeployment briefings and webinars to ensure Guardmembers and families have important information. Operation Ready Families Program has direct partnerships with Military One Source, Military Family Life Consultants on Demand, American Red Cross, Military Child Education Coalition, and Operation Military Kids to better serve the needs of our California National Guard Community of Concern. We also partner with our state Chaplain's office to provide Marriage Enrichment Seminars for couples who have experience separation because of a deployment.



Family Assistance Network

The California National Guard established a Family Assistance Network as a resource and referral to all military families - especially those involved in current deployments. The FAN has developed rosters of civilian, government, and military agencies that can help families dealing with issues that have surfaced due to mobilization.

Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA)

The TAA is the first line of support for returning veterans to help troubleshoot concerns surrounding their benefits, education assistance, employment, and any other issues they may encounter when they return from a deployment.

www.transitionassistanceprogram.com/portal/transition/lifestyles/Introduction/

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces program provides emergency communication, access to emergency financial assistance and information and referrals for service members and families.

www.redcross.org/

Operation Military Kids (OMK)

OMK supports geographically dispersed military children by educating individuals, organizations and educators on the impact that the deployment cycle has on service members, families, kids and their community as a whole; develops partnerships & identifies resources to support outreach efforts; provides mini-grant program for partnering agencies who provide outreach to military children & youth.

www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/home.aspx

Military OneSource

M.O.S. is a one-stop shop of educational resources, consultations, and referrals for military members and their families to find assistance with the diverse challenges that arise throughout the duration of a military member's career.

www.militaryonesource.com

State Child and Youth Program Manager

Oversees the development of a statewide network of communication and support that provides information, resources and opportunities to geographically dispersed military children and youth and their family members; identifies and trains volunteer youth advisory teams to conduct outreach activities.

Becky Mcphetridge

(805) 431-0335 or

rebecca.mcphetridge1@us.army.mil

Military Family Life Consultants

MFLC'S address issues that occur across the military lifestyle spectrum and helps service members and their families (to include children and youth) cope with normal reactions to stressors related to deployments, war and reintegration. MFLC'S provide individual problem solving sessions, group presentations and briefings.

www.arfp.org/

www.calguard.ca.gov/readyfamilies

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163RD SECURITY FORCES

PREPARE FOR DEPLOYMENT DURING ANNUAL TRAINING

BY SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL DUQUETTE

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL DUQUETTE



Security Forces Senior Airman Michael Montanez performs a cool down stretch after completing physical fitness an every-day requirement during the two-week deployment.

Annual training is a normal part of a guardsman's life, but being able to train in Hawaii is not an every day occurrence.

Recently, 67 members of the 163d Reconnaissance Wing returned from a 163d Security Forces Squadron (SFS) annual training deployment at the 298th Multifunctional Training Unit (MFTU) at Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii.

"The goal of the 47 SFS members was to obtain training on mount (convoy) tactics and to allow the NCOs (non-commissioned officers) to build necessary leadership skills," said Security forces operations officer and training field commander Capt. Jassen Bluto.

The remaining members of the Wing acted as support staff, providing real-world support, such as communications instruction, medical, transportation, mission support group administration, public affairs and meals during the deployment.

From the time the C-17 Globe Master III touched down at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, the SFS members were treated as if it were a real-world deployment. After arriving at Bellows, the SFS troops were briefed and split into three fire squads. Shortly after the in briefing, each squad leader broke-off with their assigned personnel and briefed them on the upcoming events and scheduling issues.

"The moment we stepped on base we ran in to scheduling conflicts with the Army and the Marines," said SFS Unit Resource Manager Staff Sgt. Andrew Musselman. "We had Army instructors teaching some classes and we needed a field training site which the Marines were using, so we had to work around their schedules."

During the deployment, the first week was dedicated to classroom instruction and practical application. Some of the training included land navigation, mount tactics and building search and clear tactics.

The Army instructed most of the classes said SFS member Staff Sgt. Anthony Diaz. "It is really awesome to have an opportunity to see how the Army operates. It was excellent co-service training."

After the training, the squads were put to the ultimate test - a nearly two-day-long, 'round-the-clock field training exercise (FTX). The goal of the FTX was to capture a base of operations and defend it using the tactics learned during the first week's instruction. During the 42-hour FTX the troops were pushed to their physical and mental limits.

"This training is very important," explained Capt. Bluto, "We're able to get more training done here, because everyone is detached from everything and their focus is here."

During the FTX, SFS Standards and Evaluation Manager Master Sgt. Kevin King and Sgt. Musselman headed a team called OPFOR, or opposing forces, that continuously attacked the base. The team incorporated members of the support staff during their down time.

"As OPFOR, we tested the squads' readiness, composure under fire, problem solving and ability to manage stressful situations," said Sgt. King, "From start to end (finish) this training was extremely valuable and far exceeded our expectations."

◀ Security Forces member Airman Sonny Dasilva performs sentry duty during a convoy exercise.

163rd Reconnaissance Wing Security Forces Squadron members Tech. Sgts Joel Loranger and Richard Aceves standby for action during a dismount exercise. ▶



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DIANE DUCAT



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DIANE DUCAT

AT THE LOS AL 'HOOD: OLD HOUSING AREA HELPS SOLDIERS PREP FOR DEPLOYMENTS

BY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (SMR) RICK DE LA TORRE

When it comes to providing supplemental training for Soldiers headed to military operations in urban terrain, particularly missions in hostile neighborhoods, a former Navy housing complex offers a ready-made teaching environment. Several acres of abandoned homes, townhouses, playgrounds, paved streets and parking garages serve as a convenient on-base setting where California Guard units can get in some additional field exercises prior to their standard deployment training.

For more than 70 Soldiers from Alpha Company, 40th Infantry Brigade Special Troops Battalion, from Imperial and San Diego counties, traveling north to the Joint Forces Training Base is proving to be a worthwhile experience as the MP/Combat Engineer unit readies for its deployment to Kosovo early next year.

The 40th BTSB Soldiers recently had a chance to test their capabilities in various scenarios designed to simulate aspects of civilian unrest and potentially lethal situations involving search and seizures. At a training session, featuring instruction by the California State Military Reserve (CSMR), the unit found itself learning how

to securely and smartly operate in the JFTB "hood."

"It went very well," said 1st Lt. Frederick Fell about the weekend exercises that gave his Soldiers time to practice working in the field together and the opportunity to improve their ability to function as independent teams. "The CSMR had a wealth of knowledge," he said. "I'm extremely pleased with the quality and results of the training."

Many of the CSMR lead instructors have had extensive careers in law enforcement, experience that is in addition to their prior military service in the Army, Marine Corps and other branches. The CSMR is an operations, support and training element of the California Military Department.

Some of the CSMR troops, who regularly role-play as peaceful "civilians" and weapons-toting "insurgents" have gotten pretty familiar with the weathered nooks and crannies of the housing area. They have found various windows and other vantage points from which to fire their simulated weapons or coordinate "suicide" ambushes with fake explosives.

A key goal of the training is to use the semi-realistic urban environment to provide as much one-on-one coaching as possible, and allow the Cal Guard Soldiers to refresh their training. Because the instruction is done in small groups, the Soldiers have more chances to ask detailed review questions, such as the specific movements called for when entering a house to search for enemy combatants.

Another key goal, according to

CSMR 1st Lt. Jim Acquarelli, is to reinforce the familiar doctrine of group cohesion. "It's about helping tune up their skills and re-instilling in them the idea of camaraderie and team effort," he said.

But, said Acquarelli, the overriding goal is one that can be stated in more practical and personal terms: "We want to provide these Soldiers with some additional tools and skills to help keep them alive during their deployment mission."



Soldiers of Alpha Co., 40th Infantry BSTB, gather for tactical planning prior to moving out into the "neighborhood," an abandoned housing area on base that provides semi-realistic conditions for military operations in urban terrain.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT (SMR) RICHARD BERGQUIST

149TH CHEMICAL COMPANY PARTICIPATES IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY FAIR "MINI-BOOT CAMP"

BY JESSICA COOPER

Sacramento, Calif. – The 149th Chemical Company has experienced some changes in the last few years. In May 2006, they lost many of their members due to a restructuring that changed it from an Armor Unit to a Combat Support Unit. Now 60 troops strong, they are in their communities and helping the Guard gain praise and respect from local citizens.

From May 22 through 26, Soldiers from the 149th CM Co participated in the "Mini-Boot Camp" Program, an annual event sponsored by the Sacramento County Fair. The Soldiers were responsible for constructing and manning the obstacle course, which provided a fun and interactive endurance challenge that attracted hundreds of children. Many kids even ran to the back of the line immediately upon completing their turn to give it another try. "Some of the kids were intimidated at first, but once we got them through once, they just kept coming back. They wanted

to be there all day," said Spc. Alejandro Yopez.

When asked what motivated him to participate in this event, Yopez said "I thought it would be fun. And because it was around Memorial Day, I thought it would be a great way to celebrate the holiday and show my appreciation to all the Soldiers that can't be with us anymore." Sgt. Justin Yelton agreed and added that he volunteered "because I wanted to give the kids a different view of us than they see on the news - a positive image."

Ms. Margie Ewen, the Sacramento County Fair coordinator for this event, commended the Soldiers on a job well done. "It is my honor to thank you and all the parties involved in coordinating the Mini-Boot Camp program during the 2008 Sacramento County Fair," said Ewen. "This activity continues to be a huge success and something the children of this community truly love."

The mission of the 149th CM Co, located in Stockton, may be to provide chemical, radiological, and nuclear reconnaissance and surveillance, and decontamination

support, but for these five days, they supported their neighbors as citizen Soldiers, embracing the California National Guard's motto of "Always ready, Always there."



Sgt. Craig Carter teaches the correct push-up position to a young group of military enthusiasts.

PHOTO BY SPC. ANTHONY DIXON

U.S. INDUSTRY SUPPORT DURING WWII AND THE KOREAN WAR

BY SPC (SMR) THOMAS BAKEHORNEHOR

PHOTOS BY 2ND LT.(SMR) HEATHER J.



Spc. (SMR) Thomas Bakehorn, left, and Spc. (SMR) Joel Hagan modeling 1955 surgical cap and gown.

Los Alamitos, Calif.-Korean War Medical Supplies were recently discovered in one of the bunkers at the Los Alamitos Army Airfield located at the Joint Forces Training Base. In 1954 during the Korean War, shipments of Navy medical supplies were delivered to the Naval Air Station. The artifacts found in the wooden crates depict the contribution to the war effort from well-known manufacturing companies in the United States.

The year 1939 represented the end of the "Great Depression", as the war in Europe and the Far East

loomed ever nearer for Americans. In 1939, there were 200,000 men in the Army, 125,000 in the Navy, and only 20,000 in the Marine Corps. By 1945 these numbers would swell to over 16,000,000 men and women on seven continents. Supplying the war became the most important issue to our government and our war efforts. In 1941 there were 5,000,000 Americans unemployed, and the average wage was \$0.64 dollars per hour. America had 184,000 manufacturing companies in business in 1941, yet only 100 large companies would contribute 90 percent of the war effort supplies by 1945.

The auto industry was the first of the American companies to switch to war supply manufacturing. GM, Ford, Chrysler, and Packard stopped producing cars in October 1942, and did not produce a commercially available automobile until 1946. During the war years, these companies supplied the war effort with the majority of airplanes, fighters, tanks, armored vehicles, trucks, jeeps, guns, bullets, bombs, and many other items needed for the war effort.

The aerospace industry switched from commercial aircraft to military aircraft, beginning in 1942. McDonald Douglas, Boeing, Northrop, Grumman, General Electric, and many others supplied aircraft and supplies to the war effort in remarkable numbers. Many of these aerospace companies, in unison with major Universities and Colleges, were also responsible for the "Manhattan Project". AT&T, Bell Labs, Motorola and many more companies made thousands of technical innovations in commercial electronics and communication equipment for the war effort.

Since most rubber came from the Far East, which by 1941 was already under the control of the Japanese, forced American industry and American technology to step up their efforts to develop the synthetic rubber industry. Dow Chemical, Monsanto, Hercules, and many smaller companies developed synthetic materials that were necessary to our war efforts. Combined with restrictions, rationing, and recycling of real rubber products, and the development of synthetic rubber and plastics, America was able to prevail throughout the war years. Other restricted and rationed materials included: Aluminum, Copper, Lead, Zinc, and steel of all types.

American food companies such as: Carnation, Borden's, Wrigley's Gum, Nabisco, and Campbell Soup all added production to the war effort. Food scientist also came up with several novel ways to handle food items: freeze drying, flash freezing, canning, dehydration, and many other innovative technologies were developed to support feeding the 16,000,000 troops on seven continents.

American companies that supported the hospital and medical industries also stepped up their production and developed new products for the war effort. An unusual example would be a company, International Silver, before the war they made table silverware. To support the war efforts, International Silver switched to making surgical equipment of all kinds. Companies like American Hospital Supply supplied IV sets and solutions, Becton-Dickenson supplied the majority of hypodermic needles and syringes, Kendall supplied bandages of all types, Johnson & Johnson supplied surgical sutures through its company Ethicon, and many smaller companies increased the production of medical supplies and equipment for the war effort.

VISIT TO THE PAST

BY BRIG. GEN. SCOTT JOHNSON

Brigadier General Scott Johnson, Deputy Commander 40th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Major Rob Whittle, Command Sgt. Major for the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) recently completed a successful trip to the Republic of Korea where they represented the 40ID Commanding General, Major General John S. Harrel at Gapyeong High School graduation ceremonies. Gapyeong High School, located between Seoul, Korea and the Demilitarized Zone was built by the 40th Infantry Division in 1953 as the Division made preparations to move to the battle front.

The 40th Infantry Division undertook construction of the new TEN-room middle school (at the time) when they observed students in Gapyeong City attending school in tents due to their school facility being destroyed by the war. Maj. Gen. Joseph Cleland, Commander of the 40th ID, gave approval for the Division Engineers, 578th Engineer Battalion, to take the lead in building a permanent school structure.

The Division Chaplain and others were involved in "passing the helmet" to secure donations from Division Soldiers that went towards purchasing the necessary construction materials. The new school structure was dedicated in the name of Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Kaiser, the first 40th Infantry Division Soldier killed in the Korean War.

February, 2008, Brig. Gen. Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Whittle participated in the 53rd Annual Graduation Ceremonies of Gapyeong High School and in the ribbon cutting of the new Gapyeong H.S. History Museum. During the visit High School Principal Han Young-Man presented a proposal that would strengthen and further develop the all ready lasting relationship that exists between the 40th Infantry Division and Gapyeong High School. School and local civic officials voiced their fond remembrance of the significant humanitarian act by the Division in building the school during wartime and asked that this message

of lasting appreciation be taken back to the current leadership of the Division and to the California National Guard.

In regards to the trip, Brig. Gen. Johnson commented: "It was an honor to represent the Division and to personally witness the sustained regard and love the Koreans have towards the 40th ID, 'the

Americans who loved Korea even in the face of death."

During the trip to Korea Brig. Gen. Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Whittle were also able to: visit California National Guard Soldiers at the "Key Resolve" Exercise; attend Eighth U.S. Army Change of Responsibility events; and tour the Demilitarized Zone.



Brigadier General Scott Johnson and Command Sgt. Major Rob Whittle at the new Gapyeong High School ribbon-cutting ceremony.

ELEVATED HELIPORT CERTIFIED FOR USE BY THE 129TH RESCUE WING

BY CAPT. ALYSON TEETER

6/12/2008 - MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. -- While patients, nurses, doctors and construction workers stared in awe, an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 129th Rescue Wing landed at the Regional Medical Center of San Jose June 9.

This Pave Hawk wasn't landing at the hospital for a rescue mission. It was the unit's maiden landing on a heliport that is the first in the Bay Area to be certified for use by the 129th RQW.

The Regional Medical Center recently completed construction of the large metallic elevated structure. The hospital partnered with the 129th RQW, nonprofit air ambulance CALSTAR and the U.S. Coast Guard to open up the heliport for business.

Community members and hospital staff were invited to take part in the opening festivities and become acquainted with the various rescue aircraft. Aircrew members and paramedics answered questions and talked about their search and rescue duties.

In the past, patients rescued by the 129th RQW were transported via am-



An HH-60G Pave Hawk from the 129th Rescue Wing, Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif. lands at the new heli-pad at the San Jose Regional Medical Center on June 9, 2008. The pad has been constructed to withstand the weight of the Pave Hawk.

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW HUGHAN

bulance from Moffett Federal Airfield to area hospitals. Landings also occurred on a Stanford University campus soccer field, where ambulances would then transport patients to the Stanford University Medical Center.

Regional's heliport will increase the unit's ability to obtain expeditious

care for rescued persons, said Capt. David Weidman, 129th Rescue Squadron HH-60 pilot.

The Regional Medical Center's heliport not only gives the wing an additional conduit for saving lives during typical search and rescue missions, but also for rescues in

response to disasters. As an Air National Guard unit, many of the 129th's past missions involved supporting the Governor's office during state emergencies, which included earthquakes, chemical spills, fires and floods.

HOST BREAKFAST

BY JESSICA COOPER

The Sacramento Chamber of Commerce recently hosted its 82nd Annual Host Breakfast at the Sacramento Convention Center May 2008. The breakfast is an opportunity for California's top industry and government leaders to meet, socialize and discuss the contemporary issues facing their businesses, economy and government. The Chamber gave each branch of the military the opportunity to recognize one of their respective servicemembers for exceptional service.

Before the introduction of the servicemembers, Capt. Danjel Bout, aide-de-camp for the California National Guard Adjutant General, was asked to speak about some of his experiences and give insight into the service and sacrifice military members are providing overseas.

His moving speech told of his journey into the military, the lessons learned from his drill instructors, "Life is tough privates, you need to

be tougher," and how that strength helped him through the harsh realities of war. Capt. Bout was deployed to Iraq in 2005 with the 1st Battalion 184th Infantry and experienced the devastating loss of his mentor and company commander, Capt. Michael MacKinnon, who was killed in October that year when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb.

Captain Bout expressed his appreciation for all the Soldiers he served with, along with all who still serve.

"Today we have the rare opportunity to put those thoughts [of those we lost] into action by honoring a Soldier, a Marine, a Sailor, a Coast Guardsman, and an Airman, that each exemplifies devotion to duty," Capt. Bout explained. "They are a credit to their branch of service and they collectively represent the best of California."

Sacramento Host Committee Chair Fritz Brown then took the stage to introduce Global War on Terrorism veterans from the Navy, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard and Marines, along with Sgt. Sergio Duarte, selected honoree of the California National Guard.

Sergeant Duarte served two tours in Iraq, most recently as the Scout Vehicle Commander with the 143rd Field Artillery, Charlie Battery. Being the first on and first off the roads in Iraq as a convoy leader is clearly an extremely hazardous job, and one that takes a courageous individual. Even after four years with the Navy, three years with the Navy Reserve, three years with the CNG, and two deployments to Iraq, Sgt. Duarte says the hardest part of it all was being away from his family.

His wife Maribel couldn't agree more, "The hardest part for me was trying to explain to our five year old son where his daddy was." However, Maribel credited the Guard's Family Readiness program with helping her through the difficult times. "[They] were great support," she said. "We couldn't have done it without them."

Chairman Brown concluded the presentation by asking the audience, "Please help me thank and recognize these service personnel for their commitment and service to our nation." The audience responded with thundering applause and a standing ovation.



Sgt. Sergio Duarte recognized for his service in Iraq as a Scout Vehicle Commander.

PHOTO BY TECH SGT. DAVID LOEFFLER

315TH ENGINEERS RENOVATE WWII BUILDING

BY MAJ. BRYAN KEELS



315th Engineers in front of a work in progress for renovation of the WWII building at the Joint Forces Training Base.

The 315th Engineers recently renovated a 2,400 square foot WWII building at the Joint Forces Training Base located in the City of Los Alamitos, saving more than two-hundred-thousand dollars in repair costs to JFTB and the California Army National Guard, through a training exercise which provided a total renovation of the building, a renovation of a walk-in cooler and the repair of a broken water main.

The primary project consisted of reframing interior walls, replacing all windows, rewiring the entire building, installing Data and Telecom systems, constructing two new latrines with all new plumbing to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and energy efficiency

standards, installing new flooring, new doors and grading the site for improved drainage and parking stalls.

The unit leadership proved outstanding from the NCO CORP up. The unit leadership received the mission, coordinated with key leaders from the host unit and their higher command to develop a detailed plan. Once the mission was approved by the 578th EN BN, the unit took total ownership of the project. The unit provided professional plans in conformity with the intended gaining unit's requirements and municipal codes. The unit assigned soldiers to complete a comprehensive bill of materials (BOM) and, coordinate with the host unit Logistics section.

The unit maintained constant communication with the logistical section to immediately address vendor shortages and specific item details, which resulted in minimal loss of time due to supply shortages.

Once construction began, the unit had all the bases covered, with daily risk assessment and a comprehensive safety plan, logistical planning and general troop care. This ensured high moral throughout the duration of the project. The mission expanded within the first days as they uncovered extensive termite damage in the walls. The unit adapted and incorporated the rebuilding of the walls into the timeline, undeterred by the added materials and labor.

Shortly after they started the opening up of the old walls and found extensive termite damage, they needed to rebuild the walls. This required building a roof support to hold the roof while building the

new walls. The unit integrated many combat theater construction techniques into the design. For instance when they built the new wall they used concrete blocks (CMU) to build a portion of the new wall. The unit also meet with the host to identify their needs, however, had the freedom to design the building as they felt was in line with their skills and the host's needs. This is often the case in theater, as an official from the host nation will work closely with the engineers to ensure the structure will meet the needs of the user verses the capabilities and the materials available to the unit.

The 315th Engineer Company under the Command of the 578th Engineer Battalion has taken a condemned building and turned it into a highly desirable space for training Soldiers. The 315th Engineer Company has proven to be an indispensable asset to the 578th Engineer Battalion and the California Army National Guard.



315th renovation plans and construction site.

PHOTOS BY 2ND LT.(SMR) HEATHER HAGAN



315th Engineers pose in front of a WWII building scheduled for renovation.

ARMY GUARD SOLDIERS RECEIVE BATTLEFIELD PROMOTIONS

ARLINGTON, Va. (06/12/2008) - Five Army National Guard Soldiers have received battlefield promotions while serving in Iraq.

They are the first Minutemen to benefit from a new Army experimental program reintroducing battlefield promotions for the first time since World War II.

"They were recognized on a level playing field alongside the other components, the Active Army and the Reserve," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Lawrence, senior enlisted advisor, National Guard affairs, Multinational Corps-Iraq (MNC-I). "They are performing at the same standards as all of their contemporaries."

An April 1 military personnel message announced a one-year pilot program making Active Army, Guard and Reserve Soldiers in the grades of E-1 through E-5 eligible for battlefield promotions, Stars and Stripes reported.

"In 2007, Gen. David Petraeus asked the Army to authorize battlefield promotions for Soldiers serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom," Lawrence explained. "The battlefield promotion program is to

recognize and promote Soldiers for extraordinary performance of duties while serving in combat or under combat conditions."

No additional requirements are incurred by the Guardmember as a result of the promotion. Normally, Soldiers are required to remain in service for at least six months after making sergeant and for at least a year after achieving staff sergeant.

The five:

- From the California National Guard, Cpl. Jeffrey Johanson, infantryman, promoted to sergeant.
- From Rhode Island, Spc. Billy Hannah, health care specialist, promoted to sergeant, and Sgt. James Shenk, unit supply specialist, to staff sergeant.
- From Virginia, Pfc. Frederic Newton, combat engineer, promoted to specialist.
- From Washington, Spc. Jacob Lancaster, military policeman, promoted to sergeant.

A squad leader at Forward Operating Base Future in Baghdad, Shenk has served for 12 years with the Rhode Island Guard. He's a full-time technician at Joint Forces

Headquarters. He served as a military policeman during a previous Iraq deployment.

Hannah, also on his second tour in Iraq, volunteered to return out of loyalty to his unit. A civilian X-ray and computerized tomography technician, Hannah has a son in the Marine Corps who has been wounded in action during one of two Iraq rotations.

The other Soldiers who were promoted could not be reached for comment.

To qualify for a battlefield promotion, Soldiers must be serving within Iraq or Afghanistan in operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom. There have not yet been any battlefield promotions involving National Guard troops in Afghanistan, Lawrence said. The program waives time-in-service and time-in-grade requirements for corporals or specialists being promoted to sergeant. It also postpones minimum military education requirements and waives promotion boards for sergeants being promoted to staff sergeant.

A Soldier given a battlefield promotion to staff sergeant has 270 days from redeployment to graduate



from the Warrior Leader Course, according to Lawrence. Returning Soldiers will be given priority for the course, he said.

The program makes allowances for the unique structure of the National Guard.

"Each adjutant general retains promotion authority over their Soldiers," Lawrence said. "Their wartime commander, recognizing their extraordinary performance, recommends them for promotion which in turn gets authorized by MNC-I. Then the states cut the orders."

There's a link between the battlefield and the states." Only one battlefield promotion is allowed, so a Soldier who gets a battlefield promotion to sergeant must achieve staff sergeant by the normal route.

The pilot program ends April 9, 2009.

NEED HELP? THINK FAST!

BY DEBRA MENDELSON

Soldiers and families now have access to a new weapon to battle bureaucratic snafus and other family or Soldier related issues. The "Family And Soldier Tip Line" (F.A.S.T.) is a toll-free hotline that offers fast action to help California National Guard Soldiers and loved ones address problems.

Developed and managed by Army Division, the FAST hotline's purpose is three-fold: to help solve pay related issues; offer family assistance support; and serve as a forum for wounded, injured or ill service members to share their concerns with regard to equality of patient care. Deputy Adjutant General and commander of Army Division, Brig. Gen. Louis Antonetti said, "The FAST hotline offers our Soldiers and families unprecedented access to support for issues that seem to have hit a wall. It is designed to unlock bureaucratic gridlock, not circumvent the chain of command."

Soldiers are encouraged to try to resolve issues at the unit level before calling the FAST line, and units are encouraged to support use of the hotline when issues reach a standstill. Brigadier General Antonetti stresses, "Any retribution towards Soldiers who utilize this service will not be tolerated."

Soldiers and Family members can reach FAST toll-free at: 1-800-924-7782, Local: 1-916-854-3199 Overseas and Stateside DSN: 466-3199. FAST operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and all calls will be returned within 24 hours.



NEWS & BENEFITS

Women's Memorial Sponsors Exhibit

Duty, courage, camaraderie and sacrifice are on display at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va. The public can view a collection of 115 black-and-white and color photographs that depict U.S. Soldiers and Marines in action spanning from the Civil War to the present day. The photos were culled from more than 4,000 images that were reviewed by the exhibit curator. The free exhibit is titled "The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute to Soldiers and Marines." The traveling exhibit will be featured inside the women's memorial building through Labor Day. For more information, visit the Women in Military Service for America Memorial website at <http://www.womensmemorial.org/> or contact the Curator of Exhibits at the Memorial, at 703-533-1155 or 800-222-2294.

Army Sponsors Small Business Program

The purpose of the Army's Service-Disabled Veteran-Owner Small Business (SDVOSB) Program is to maximize contracting opportunities with the federal government for small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. The Army made \$916 million in contract awards to SDVOSBs in 2007. On Jan. 9, 2008, the secretary of the Army published a memorandum encouraging the Army senior leadership to aggressively include SDVOSBs in contract solicitations and increase outreach activities to meet a 3 percent goal. For more information, visit the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business website at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/programs/veterans/index.htm>

TRICARE University

Those seeking a better understanding of the TRICARE benefit, can now take a free on-line public course from TRICARE University. The course, covering a wide range of topics such as eligibility, medical benefits, TRICARE programs, pharmacy, dental, on-line resources, and TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS), can be taken anywhere at any time. The public on-line course is designed in modules that allow beneficiaries to learn about TRICARE benefits in any order of interest and at their own pace. To learn and understand the benefit, log on to www.tricare.mil/tricareu and click "on-line training" to select the TRICARE Public course. TRS is an additional selection under the public course.

Don't Forget Food Safety

Knowing how to prepare, handle, and store food properly is important as summer temperatures can quickly cause food to spoil. Here are some food safety tips: (1) Wash hands with soap and water often while you are handling food, and do the same for any surfaces the food comes into contact with; (2) Always keep raw meat, poultry and seafood, and any of their leaking juices away from already cooked, ready-to-eat foods and fresh produce. (3) Chill perishable foods promptly and thaw foods properly; (4) Use a meat thermometer to verify that everyday items like hamburgers, pork chops or chicken breasts have reached a safe internal temperature. For more information, visit Commissaries.com Food Safety webpage.

Homes for Our Troops

Founded in 2004, Homes for Our Troops is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing specially adapted homes to servicemembers severely injured while fighting in the global war on terrorism. The organization has provided 25 veterans and their families with homes suited to meet the each veteran's individual challenges. Over the next few years, Homes for Our Troops is committed to providing at least 100 additional homes for injured troops. For more information, visit the Homes for Our Troops website at <http://www.homesforourtroops.org/site/PageServer>

Did you know?

You should not be so quick to sign memorandums. Make sure you have the authority to sign first. Informal memorandums stay within your organization and have no letterhead and there is no issue signing those as long as you have been given the authority to do so. Formal memorandums have letterhead and can be used internally and externally, but the catch is they have to be signed by the commander/TAG of the organization listed in the letterhead. The exception to this is when that authority has been delegated to you. Primary staff officers publishing policy for their respective functions have specified signature authority for their commander as listed in AR 25-50 and do not need a document delegating signature authority. Such personnel must, however, still use an authority line such as "FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL". All other personnel who sign for the TAG/commander must have that authority delegated in writing. If you're not sure check AR 25-50, AFI 33-321, or authority delegation memorandums published by your commander.

Free ASVAB Test

If you're serious about joining the military, then get serious about the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

The ASVAB is a timed multi-aptitude test, which is given at over 14,000 schools and Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) nationwide and is developed and maintained by the Department of Defense.

Start now by taking our practice ASVAB tests. These tests will give you an idea of how you'll score, and identify areas that need improvement. Then use our suggested resources and ASVAB study guides to learn how to prepare for the ASVAB test.

Log on to <http://www.military.com/ASVAB> and start studying.

Freedom Team Salute

Freedom Team Salute (FTS) was created by the secretary of the Army and Army chief of staff in May 2005 to honor all U.S. Army veterans and provide Soldiers -- active component, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve -- the opportunity to recognize those who support them (specifically spouses, parents, and employers) with a commendation, thanking them for the value they bring to the Army Family. For more information, and to honor someone, visit the Freedom Team Salute website at <http://www.freedomteamsalute.com/>





California National Guard CH47 delivers California Fire Department personnel from Petaluma to the Clear lake region where 12,000 acres are threatened by wildfires.

Photo Submitted by Sgt. Mark Brown

Grizzly Newsletter

is published by the Directorate of Communications

California National Guard 9800 Goethe Road Sacramento CA 95827.

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Grizzly Newsletter is an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101.

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